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The Secretary-General's Meeting with Mr. Paul Ruegger, Representative of the International Committee of Red Cross at 5 p.m., 6 Nov.

Mr. Ruegger stated that the ICRC at a recent meeting had agreed that the Organization should participate in efforts to maintain peace beyond its normal role. In this context, ICRC is willing to participate in the present Cuban crisis to prevent suffering of people.

The following main points were put forward by Mr. Ruegger:

(a) ICRC must have approval or consent of all three parties concerned.

As USA and USSR had already agreed, he proposes to approach Cuba. The Secretary-General explained that Mr. Castro had told him in Havana that ships could be inspected outside Cuban territorial waters and had reiterated this in his TV statement last Thursday. The Secretary-General had no objection to Mr. Ruegger approaching Cuba.

(b) ICRC wanted to know the position of block countries and particularly of China regarding inspection of ships in high seas. The Secretary-General informed him that the USSR had already agreed to this inspection but the other block countries had yet to be approached by the UN. Meanwhile, USA had informed that they would approach all non-block powers whose ships visit Cuba. Mr. Ruegger was advised that he should raise the matter of other block ships with the USSR when he meets them.

(c) The extent of territorial waters of Cuba was discussed and Mr. Ruegger decided to ask the Cuban representative for this information.

Mr. Ruegger suggested the following method for inspection:

(a) ICRC would obtain personnel who would work under the UN. After discussion it was agreed that the personnel for the inspection organization would all be recruited by ICRC, which would include a Chief and a Deputy.

(b) The inspection organization would receive its instructions from the UN. The UN would, however, consult with ICRC to ensure conformity with Red Cross regulations before issuance of instructions.

(c) ICRC would not assume direct responsibility for these inspections but it can be said that the organization is constituted under ICRC.

(d) The inspecting stations should be on neutral ships. Mr. Ruegger agreed to consider flying a Red Cross flag and would advise later.

(e) If inspectors are unable to carry out tasks, they would report to the UN.

(f) In order to facilitate effective control by inspectors, weapons should be easy to recognize. Mr. Ruegger was informed that USSR had given definite assurances that there would be no weapons at all. In any event, USA had only requested inspection of offensive weapons.

In a discussion which followed, Mr. Ruegger stated that Red Cross personnel would not wear Red Cross badges and it may be difficult to agree to flying a Red Cross flag. It was suggested to him that the USSR would prefer complete organization to be Red Cross; therefore, it may be better to reconsider description of inspection. There were urgent humanitarian grounds for the quarantine to be lifted earliest and as such the Red Cross could be involved on strictly humanitarian grounds. Mr. Ruegger agreed to refer to ICRC.

The Secretary-General suggested that Mr. Ruegger meet with the USA, USSR and Cuban representatives tomorrow, together with Mr. Loutfi and General Rikhye. It was agreed.

Distribution: (1) The Secretary-General  
(2) Mr. Narasimhan  
(3) Mr. Loutfi  
(4-6) Brig. Rikhye